by Ministry having a Mining Advisor for the last 15 years;

(b) what were the reasons therefor:

(c) whether anybody has been made accountable for failure of these projects at the Ministry level;

(d) if so, the details therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Mining Adviso responsible for these failures is stil' ,tting in the Ministry and working ,1 different capacities;

(f) wheth e it is also a fact that the same official is also responsible for failure of imported machineries including the power supported Long Wall Faces for the last 15 years; and

(g) if not, what remedial measures have been taken to offset such failures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) According to information received from Coal India Ltd., following five coal projects sanctioned by Government were not taken up/abandoned.

Project	Remarks
1. Laudoha Underground (ECL)	Project was considered unviable due to thin seam and high cost of longwall equipment.
2. Chinakuri RPR (ECL)	Technology proposed by erstwhile USSR experts was not considered safe.
3. Ningha Underground (ECL)	Method of extraction proposed was not permitted by Director General Mines Safety.
4. Parbelia Underground (ECL)	Project technology proposed was not found viable.
5. Talcher Underground (MCL)	During underground development seam thickness was found varying over wide ranges.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) Procurement of equipment (including longwall equipment) both by way of import as well as through indigenous sources are undertaken by the coal companies in accordance with laid down procedures in this regard. The measures, inter alia, include appropriate performance guarantees by the manufacturers/suppliers.

Differeht Kinds o coal allotted to Skkim Sikkim

3068. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the different kinds of coal allotted to the State of sikkim and at what rates; and

(b) what is the quantity of each type of coal and the coalfields, these are supplied from?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) According to information received from Coal India Limited consumers in Sikkim are being allotted steam/slack coal as well as soft coke. These are being supplied at the notified prices.

The quantities of different types of coal/coke despatched to Sikkim during the year 1994-95 were as under:

Steam coal	4200 tonnes
Slack coal	530 tonnes
Soft coke	2300 tonnes
	7030 tonnes

Coal supplies to Sikkim were made from Raniganj and Mugma Salanpur fields of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

Explosions in BCCL mines

3069. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the factors leading to the recent explosions in the BCCL mines inthe Kusunda region;

(b) the area, workers and the local population affected and the present situation;

(c) loss, if any, to coal reserves and equipments on count of these explosions;

(d) whether it is a fact that the residents of the nearby locality, Shrinagar and a section of workers had been objecting to the use of powerful dynamites in the Nayadth Kusunda open cast mines;

(e) if so, the action taken on such requests and apprehensions; and

(f) responsibilities fixed for these explosions and action taken against the erring staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (f) On 1.3.95 during the routine blasting operation in coal, an explosion occurred at Kusunda Open cast Project of Bharat Coking Coal Limited. A preliminary enquiry conducted by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) could not pin point the reasons/ factors leading to this explosion. BCCL has now appointed a Higher Power Committee to investigate into the occrrence. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) are also enquiring into this explosion. Meanwhile, DGMS have issued show cause letters to General Manager, Agent, Manager and two Assistant Managers of the mine besides the nominated owner, namely the concerned Director of BCCL.

(b) The area of influence of explosion extended upto a distance of about 400 metres from the site of explosion which is well within the lease hold area of the mine. Two employees of BCCL and one outsider lost their lives. Four other persons received minor injuries. Presently, the siutation in the area is normal and mining operations have been resumed.

(c) There has been no loss of coal reserves. One drill machine which was surveyed off and was lying near the quarry was damaged. Shaft installations in one shaft (PK-4) were also damaged. The shaft is being refitted.

(d) and (e) Some unauthorised occupants of company's quarters in the vicinity of the opencast mine had, from time to time objected to blasting operation carried out in the mine. Blasting operation in Kusunda Opencast mine was being carried out after obtaining the approval of D.G.M.S.

Coal for domestic use in Gujarat

3070. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual requirement of coal in the State of Gujarat for domestic consumption;

(b) what was the actual allocation of coal in the State of Gujarat for two years, monthly details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the allocation of coal to Gujarat State in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and